in capital, persons, or material, it would be asked first of Germans.

A few days later Russia obtained a twenty-five years lease on Talienwan (more commonly known to foreigners as Dalny and, later, as Dairen) and Port Arthur—on the tip of that Liaotung Peninsula so recently retrieved from Japan—with the privilege of erecting fortifications and naval depots and building a railway to connect the territory with the main line across Manchuria (the Russo-Chinese road, the Chinese Eastern Railway, to be mentioned in a moment). A glance at the map will show that this gave Russia a strangle hold on Manchuria and put her in a position to control the sea approaches to the North.

Great Britain was opposed to any alienation of Chinese territory, for that threatened to close the "open door to its trade—its chief interest in China. The Russian lease of Port Arthur, however, made the British eager for a counter-weight to a naval station dominating so much of the North. With the consent of Japan, whose troops were still occupying it pending the payment of the last of the indemnity promised in 1895, and with formal assurance to Berlin that they would not build a railway into the interior and so compete with German interests, the British acquired (1898) a lease to Weihaiwei "for as long a period as Port Arthur shall remain in the possession of Russia." In the same year Great Britain obtained a ninety-nine year lease to such of the peninsula of Kowloon, opposite Hongkong, as had not been ceded it in 1860.

In the spring of 1898, France was given a ninety-nine year lease to the bay of Kwangchow, in Southwestern Kwangtung.

Thus within a few weeks the leading European powers had acquired leaseholds on the coast of China which

might be followed'
by partition.

Other steps were taken which looked in the same direction. In 1897 France had gotten from China a promise that the latter would never cede the Island of Hainan to any third power. In February, 1898, Great Britain obtained assurance from China that the latter would not alienate to any other power any territory in the provinces adjoining the Yangtze, and in April of that year France was given a similar assurance for the provinces bordering on her possessions in Indo-China. When, also in April, 1898, Japan asked for such a promise for Fukien, she was told that